

class of Williams Scholar Academy in Abbeville, LA—the first public charter school in Vermilion Parish.

Five students have earned their place in the inaugural class. They are:

Tiranni Mechel Henderson  
Trinity India Readom  
Warkaylar Leona Johnson  
RyanDrea Dexeanna Readom  
Virtue Sanaa'h Davenport

These five students have worked hard to earn their diplomas. Tiranni, Trinity, Warkaylar, RyanDrea, and Virtue mark the beginning of what I hope is a long list of graduates. They will forever be a part of Williams Scholar Academy history and have set a standard of academic success for future students to follow.

I was honored to participate in the groundbreaking and prayer ceremony for Williams Scholar Academy in March of 2021. We had a beautiful and uplifting gathering. Citizens across the community came together with a shared mission to bring new educational opportunities to South Louisiana. We prayed for the success of the school and the young men and women that would be attending.

Today, we recognize an answered prayer—Williams Scholar Academy's first graduating class.

This is a monumental achievement, but it is only the beginning.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Louisiana's 3rd District, I recognize Tiranni Mechel Henderson, Trinity India Readom, Warkaylar Leona Johnson, RyanDrea Dexeanna Readom, and Virtue Sanaa'h Davenport on their graduation. I wish each of them great success in their future endeavors, and I pray that Williams Scholar Academy will educate, serve, and graduate students for many years to come.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF REVEREND JESSE TURNER

#### HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 16, 2022*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pine Bluff native, Reverend Jesse Turner. Reverend Turner is the President of the Pine Bluff Faith Community Coalition Ministerial Alliance and a staunch supporter and leader of the "Pen or Pencil" program, which promotes a national mentoring initiative to reach students in violence-prone areas.

Reverend Turner's program has successfully served young adults whose circumstances have put them at risk for entry into the criminal justice system. Since 2005, the Pen or Pencil program is now in 12 states and 15 locations. It has enhanced and expanded mentoring services for youth to choose the "pencil" for education rather than the "pen" for the penitentiary.

Choosing education and a life committed to good when the community around you is suffering takes great courage, and it takes great leaders. Reverend Turner is such a leader in Pine Bluff, and all who have taken part in his ministry through the Alliance or through Pen or Pencil know that his work makes a difference.

I thank Reverend Turner for the good work he has done for generations of Fourth District Arkansans.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE NORMAN Y. MINETA

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2022*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor and mourn former Secretary Norman Y. Mineta. My thoughts and sympathies are with his wife Deni, his children Stuart, David, Mark and Bob, and his family and friends. He was a truly remarkable, trailblazing individual who became one of the most prominent Asian American figures in our country. His legacy included many firsts, and his life was a source of inspiration, a testament to the American spirit of fighting for justice and equality.

I met Norm when I was working for the late, beloved Congressman Ron Dellums. Norm was very kind to me, taught me a lot, listened to my ideas, and was a close friend of Ron's. In many ways, he was a mentor to me. Later, when I became a member of Congress, he always sought me out to tell me how proud he was of me. Such support coming from this giant of a man, always humbled me. I always told him how much he influenced my life, and I was deeply grateful for his friendship.

His success did not come without sacrifice. When Secretary Mineta was ten years old, our government forcibly removed him and his family from their home in San Jose to a World War II Japanese American incarceration camp, the Heart Mountain camp in Wyoming. Decades later, he led the passage of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act, which granted reparations and a formal apology to Japanese Americans wrongfully incarcerated by our government solely on the basis of race, due to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's issuance of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942.

Having endured such blatant racism and discrimination against Japanese Americans, he understood the importance of fighting for people who never had a voice in our political process. Throughout his career, he was the first Asian American mayor of San Jose, the first Japanese American member of Congress from the lower 48 states, and the first Asian American Cabinet Member, serving as both the Secretary of Commerce for President Clinton and Secretary of Transportation for President Bush. In 2006, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his achievements.

During his time in Congress, Secretary Mineta co-founded the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) and its sister organization, the Asian Pacific American Institute of Congressional Studies (APAICS), to advocate for issues concerning the AAPI community. It is because of his efforts that the Asian American and Pacific Islander community has a greater voice in this chamber. My prayers are with his family, friends, and the AAPI community. We have all lost an icon.

Madam Speaker, I urge the entire House to continue to honor Secretary Mineta's legacy through our commitment to justice and equality for all.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN LELAND PERRY AND JASON HADFIELD FOR RECEIVING THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

#### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 16, 2022*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Justin Leland Perry and Jason Hadfield for being awarded the Carnegie Medal by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission for saving a young girl from drowning. Their heroic actions cannot be overstated, and our community is indebted to their laudable efforts.

Originally created by industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission was implemented to recognize selfless and heroic acts from citizens across the U.S. and Canada. The medal's inspiration dates back to 1904 during the Harwick Mine tragedy where 181 lives were lost. Two victims of the disaster sacrificed themselves to save others which inspired Carnegie to create the fund. Since then, more than 10,000 awardees have been honored, with more than \$40 million given in grants, scholarships, death benefits, and other assistance. There is no doubt that Justin and Jason are deserving of this honor.

On July 25, 2020, in Honor, Michigan, a young girl was swimming on a floatie in Lake Michigan when suddenly the tether slipped off of her mother's wrist. Instantly, the high winds and strong current pulled the floatie away from shore eventually tipping the girl over in the water. Justin Leland Perry and Jason Hadfield, who were with different groups, sprang into action using a child's life ring and kayak to help bring the victim to shore. Justin and Jason's valiant efforts saved a young life and prevented significant and tragic hardship for a family and community.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Justin Leland Perry and Jason Hadfield for being awarded the Carnegie Medal by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such selfless and heroic citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

#### CELEBRATING COACH BOB "WAGS" WAGNER ON HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. KAIALI' I KAHELE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 16, 2022*

Mr. KAHELE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor University of Hawaii football coach Bob "Wags" Wagner on his 75th birthday.

Coach Bob "Wags" Wagner is a two-time Conference Coach of the Year and led the University of Hawaii Rainbow Warriors to their first bowl game in 1989, their first Western Athletic Conference (WAC) title in 1992, and he represented the WAC as its Champion in the 1992 Holiday Bowl with a win over Illinois. Coach Wags is the only University of Hawaii head football coach to have beaten rival BYU on multiple occasions in 1989, 1990 and the